

## House Resolution 323

By: Representatives Byrd of the 20<sup>th</sup>, England of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Lunsford of the 110<sup>th</sup>, Rogers of the 26<sup>th</sup>, and Forster of the 3<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Georgia Bioeconomic Development Commission; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, bioscience technologies form the foundation of a new bioeconomy and are  
3 driving innovations in healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy resources, industrial  
4 production, environmental management, and national security; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Georgia has established tremendous university research and industrial  
6 developments which are necessary to be a leader among the many states that are already  
7 constructing infrastructures for a bioeconomy; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in the twenty-first century bioeconomy race, the competition is intense for both  
9 innovative ideas and the capital and talent to commercialize them, and while Georgia has  
10 successfully built research universities that are globally competitive, the state has failed to  
11 support commercializing the technologies that spring from such valuable inspirations; and
- 12 WHEREAS, this state loses potential return on its research investment to other states that  
13 have developed plans and infrastructures to support bioeconomic development; and
- 14 WHEREAS, this state cannot afford to leave the development of a bioeconomy to chance,  
15 for each year Georgia fails to act, the state falls further behind the competition and Georgia  
16 loses its substantial investment in university research programs; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Georgia is also missing the opportunity to take advantage of its investment in  
18 its students by failing to link science with meaningful careers in Georgia and this vital human  
19 resource is often lost to other states which offer such career opportunities; and
- 20 WHEREAS, in order to maximize the return on this state's research assets, improve  
21 workforce education and attract technologies and companies from outside the state, Georgia  
22 must be an aggressive partner with the private sector; and

1 WHEREAS, it is predicted that improvements in Georgia's bioeconomic infrastructures  
2 would create 25,000 to 50,000 jobs in Georgia over the next 20 years; and

3 WHEREAS, to become a leader in the bioeconomy Georgia must unite government,  
4 industry, and universities together in a comprehensive effort, thereby tying the state's  
5 investments in university research, commercialization, and economic development to  
6 measurable improvements in job growth, increases in tax revenues, and improvements in  
7 education, health, and the overall quality of life for all of Georgia's citizens.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
9 GEORGIA that there is created the Georgia Bioeconomic Development Commission. The  
10 commission shall consist of 15 members representing the life sciences industry, government,  
11 and universities who shall be appointed as follows:

12 (1) Five members shall be appointed by the Governor. Of these five members, there  
13 shall be at least one each of the following: a representative of a public or private  
14 university with experience in the area of biological research, an employee of the  
15 executive branch having an understanding of government operations in the area of health  
16 care, and an experienced businessperson in the area of bioscience technologies;

17 (2) Five members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. Of these five  
18 members, there shall be at least one each of the following: a member of a public or  
19 private university with experience in the area of biological research, an individual  
20 experienced in the business of bioscience technologies, and three members of the Senate.  
21 The President of the Senate shall appoint one cochairperson; and

22 (3) Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
23 Of these five members, there shall be at least one each of the following: a member of a  
24 public or private university with experience in the area of biological research, an  
25 individual experienced in the business of bioscience technologies, and three members  
26 of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
27 appoint one cochairperson.

28 Appointments shall be made by the respective appointing authorities no later than June 1,  
29 2007.

30 The commission shall meet at least five times per year at the call of the cochairpersons or  
31 upon the request of at least seven of its members. At least one meeting shall be designated  
32 as a summit hosted by the commission which shall be held no later than August 2007. The  
33 bioeconomic summit shall bring together government, university, and industry leaders to  
34 negotiate the details of the enabling legislation and endorse its legislative proposals for the  
35 2008 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall have the following duties and  
2 responsibilities:

3 (1) To review the need for enabling legislation and make recommendations, if any, for  
4 improvements in existing provisions to the Georgia General Assembly;

5 (2) To study the need for a venture capital fund that would invest in creating, expanding,  
6 and recruiting companies and technologies in Georgia and make recommendations  
7 regarding the same;

8 (3) To study the need for a facilities fund for the creation of infrastructure to support  
9 bioscience industry growth and to make recommendations regarding the same;

10 (4) To study the need for the establishment of a commercialization institute to attract and  
11 train managerial talent, to coordinate life sciences workforce training, and to be a single  
12 point of contact for the cooperation of government, universities, and industry in building  
13 the bioeconomy and to make recommendations regarding the same;

14 (5) To consider the need for a state authority for bioeconomic development in Georgia  
15 which may be designated the Georgia Bioeconomic Development Authority; and

16 (6) To consider the need for a permanent board to oversee the operations of a Georgia  
17 Bioeconomic Development authority.

18 Other matters to be considered by the commission shall include the study of public awareness  
19 of bioeconomic development, funding of an authority, support for biomedical research, legal  
20 implications such as intellectual property rights of the state and the researchers whose  
21 research is supported or funded with state funds, objective criteria for measuring increased  
22 economic activity, and funding considerations including private sources for funding.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall identify the opportunities  
24 presented by BIO 2009 International Convention as a showcase to the global community of  
25 the state's life sciences industry and initiatives in healthcare, agriculture, bioenergy, forestry,  
26 environmental management, and national security. The commission shall develop an  
27 analysis to consider allocating sufficient funding for the state to participate in the conference  
28 and take advantage of this economic opportunity with the added goal of placing Georgia and  
29 Atlanta in a four-year rotation as host of this international convention, the largest life  
30 sciences conference in the world.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may conduct such meetings at such  
32 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully  
33 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes  
34 of this resolution. The legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances  
35 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees from the funds

1 appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate but shall receive the same for  
2 not more than ten days unless additional days are authorized. Citizen members shall receive  
3 a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21  
4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated as well as the mileage or transportation allowance  
5 authorized for state employees. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
6 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the  
7 Senate. In the event the commission makes a report of its findings and recommendations,  
8 with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before  
9 December 31, 2007. Copies of the report shall be provided to the Governor, President of the  
10 Senate, and Speaker of the House. The commission shall stand abolished on February 15,  
11 2008.